

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio	)	
Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric	)	Case No. 14-1297-EL-SSO
Illuminating Company and The Toledo	)	
Edison Company for Authority to Provide	)	
for a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to	)	
R.C. § 4928.143 in the Form of an Electric	)	
Security Plan	)	

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**SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**RODNEY L. PHILLIPS**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**OHIO EDISON COMPANY, THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING  
COMPANY, AND THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY**

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**May 4, 2015**

1   **Q.    PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2   A.   My name is Rodney L. Phillips. I am employed by FirstEnergy Service Company as  
3       Director of Transmission Operations. My business address is 76 South Main, Akron,  
4       Ohio 44308.

5   **Q.    PLEASE    DESCRIBE    YOUR    PROFESSIONAL    QUALIFICATIONS,**  
6       **EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE, AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.**

7   A.   I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from West Virginia  
8       University. I am also a Registered Professional Engineer in West Virginia. I have spent  
9       31 years with subsidiaries of FirstEnergy Corp. (“FirstEnergy”) or its predecessor  
10      companies, working in a variety of transmission-related positions including transmission  
11      planning and system operations. I began my career in 1983 as an Engineer, Distribution  
12      in the Engineering & Construction Department of Monongahela Power Company (“Mon  
13      Power”). In 1986, I became an Engineer, Power Services in the Customer Services  
14      Group at Mon Power’s Morgantown Division Office. In 1988, I worked as a Staff  
15      Assistant in Mon Power’s Human Resources Department. From 1989 to 1995, I was the  
16      Supervisor, Substations in Mon Power’s Engineering and Construction Department. In  
17      1995, I became Supervisor, Construction in Mon Power’s Engineering and Construction  
18      Department. From 1996 to 1999, I was the General Manager, Substation Maintenance  
19      for Allegheny Energy. In 1999, I became Director, Operations for Jeannette Region for  
20      Allegheny Energy. From 2001 to 2003, I was the Director, Transmission and  
21      Distribution Services, for Allegheny Energy. In July of 2003, I became the Director of  
22      Planning and System Operations in Allegheny Energy’s Transmission & Distribution  
23      Department. As Director of Planning and System Operations, I was responsible for

1 planning the expansion and improvement projects for all transmission and distribution  
2 infrastructure and then insuring the security, reliability and integrity of the transmission  
3 and distribution system via the actions of the Transmission Control Center and  
4 Distribution Dispatch Center. In 2005 I became Director, System Operations in  
5 Allegheny Energy's Transmission Department. From 2006 to 2007, I was Director,  
6 Transmission Planning & Operations for Allegheny Energy's Transmission Department.  
7 As Director of Transmission Planning and Operations, I was responsible for insuring the  
8 security, reliability and integrity of the transmission and distribution system via the real-  
9 time actions of the Transmission Control Center and for the infrastructure planning of  
10 Allegheny Energy's transmission and sub-transmission system. In July of 2007, I  
11 became Executive Director, Transmission Engineering and Operations in Allegheny  
12 Energy's Transmission Department. I was responsible for Transmission Planning,  
13 Transmission System Operations, Transmission Engineering Support and Standards,  
14 Transmission Field Operations, Transmission Forestry, Technical Services, Network  
15 Fiber Operations and Facilities. From 2011 to 2012, I was Director, Operations Support  
16 in Mon Power's Operations Support Department.

17 I assumed my present position on August 12, 2012. As Director of Transmission  
18 Operations, I am responsible for overseeing the monitoring and operation of  
19 FirstEnergy's transmission system to ensure safe and reliable operations via the actions of  
20 the Transmission Control Centers. In addition, my group bears responsibility for outage  
21 scheduling, operator training, compliance and procedures, power network analysis and  
22 settlements.

1   **Q.   DID YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMIT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

2   A.   No. Company witness Gavin L. Cunningham previously submitted testimony. However,  
3       he is retiring. Mr. Cunningham’s direct testimony quantified the conservative cost of  
4       additional transmission upgrades that would be necessary as a result of (i) already  
5       announced planned retirements, and (ii) the closure of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power  
6       Station (“Davis-Besse”) and the W.H. Sammis Plant (“Sammis”) (collectively, the  
7       “Plants”). I have reviewed Mr. Cunningham’s direct testimony and Exhibit GLC-1, and,  
8       with minor adjustments to the results of the transmission impact study, I have determined  
9       their methodology and conclusions are correct. I am adopting Mr. Cunningham’s direct  
10      testimony and Exhibit GLC-1 as my own.

11   **Q.   PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RESULTS OF THE**  
12   **TRANSMISSION IMPACT STUDY AND THE DIRECT TESTIMONY.**

13   A.   Witness Cunningham provided a conservative estimate that the total costs of the upgrades  
14      necessary to address the needs identified by the transmission impact study would exceed  
15      \$442 million. I am making the following adjustments to that conservative estimate: (1)  
16      The transmission impact study identified the need for two terminal equipment upgrades  
17      estimated to cost a total of \$20 million. Using updated information, I estimate the cost of  
18      the upgrades to be \$3.5 million. (2) I would use different per-mile cost estimates for re-  
19      conductoring three of the 345 kV facilities, resulting in total reduced costs of \$20 million.  
20      (3) I would also use a different multiplier for a fourth 345 kV facility, resulting in  
21      increased costs of \$31 million. With these adjustments, the conservative estimate for the  
22      total cost of the upgrades necessary to address the violations identified by the  
23      transmission impact study is \$436.5 million.

1   **Q.    WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY?**

2    A.    My supplemental testimony will address the necessity of Sammis and Davis-Besse, in  
3           light of future reliability concerns, as well as the impact that a closure of the Plants would  
4           have on electric prices. The direct testimony that I adopt here explained that the removal  
5           of a large baseload generating plant like Sammis or Davis-Besse from the transmission  
6           grid: (a) affects the real and reactive power flow across the grid, (b) can have a  
7           significant adverse impact on system reliability, and (c) often negatively impacts the  
8           ability of the power system to withstand sudden, unexpected disturbances. That  
9           testimony conservatively estimated the cost of transmission upgrades necessary to  
10          maintain reliability, if it became necessary to retire Davis-Besse and Sammis, at \$436.5  
11          million.

12   **Q.    IF THE TRANSMISSION UPGRADES IDENTIFIED IN THE TESTIMONY YOU**  
13   **ADOPT CAN MAINTAIN RELIABILITY, ARE THE PLANTS STILL**  
14   **NECESSARY FOR FUTURE RELIABILITY?**

15   A.    Yes. The transmission upgrades identified will enable the system to mitigate the  
16          violations of PJM's reliability standards. They will maintain but not improve upon  
17          current reliability. Generators play a key role in the real time operation of the system. In  
18          addition to providing real and reactive power, they are used to help alleviate the  
19          reliability issues (i.e., thermal overloads, high/low system voltage and or excessive  
20          system voltage drops) that could occur during normal conditions, planned outages and/or  
21          unplanned outages on the system. For plants like Sammis, generation re-dispatch is used  
22          extensively to manage the transmission constraints that occur on the system in real-time.  
23          When generators are removed from the system, a key tool for operators is no longer  
24          available for them to utilize. When generation re-dispatch is not an option to address a

1 reliability problem (as may occur when there are outages on the transmission system),  
2 system operators must rely on system reconfiguration (e.g., a switching solution where  
3 lines or transformers are removed from service) or various emergency procedures  
4 (including load shed). A system depending on wires to replace generation is more  
5 vulnerable to having generation separated (i.e., disconnected) from the load centers. The  
6 simple fact is that increasing distance between generation and a load center increases the  
7 potential for outages on the transmission system (scheduled or unscheduled outages) to  
8 affect reliability at the load center. For this reason, ideally, the system generation  
9 resources are located in close electrical proximity to the load centers, as was the historic  
10 practice in the industry.

11 This applies equally to the retirements of approximately 2,400 megawatts (“MW”) of  
12 coal-fired power plants in Ohio between 2012 and 2015, which was discussed in the  
13 direct testimony. As that testimony explained, these retirements led to identification of  
14 38 separate transmission upgrades estimated to cost customers approximately \$1 billion.  
15 The projects were designed to maintain reliability, not improve it. Put another way,  
16 customers will pay an estimated \$1 billion more in costs for no improved reliability  
17 outcome.

18 **Q. DOES OHIO HAVE SUFFICIENT GENERATION LOCATED IN CLOSE**  
19 **ELECTRICAL PROXIMITY TO LOAD?**

20 A. No. Ohio is a large net importer of power, according to data maintained by the Energy  
21 Information Administration.<sup>1</sup> This deficit is trending upward and is exacerbated by  
22 retirements of Ohio generation that are outpacing additions of new Ohio capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> Table 10, <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/Ohio/xls/sept10oh.xls>.

1 According to data maintained by PJM, 4,292 MW of Ohio coal generation deactivated  
2 since 2005.<sup>2</sup> Another 1,925 MW of Ohio coal generation is scheduled to be deactivated  
3 later in 2015.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, only 1,207 MW of natural gas generation was placed into  
4 service in Ohio between 2005 and 2014.<sup>4</sup> There is significant reliability and economic  
5 risk for Ohio in entrusting system reliability to out-of-state generators sending power on  
6 not-yet-built transmission lines.

7 **Q. TO MAINTAIN RELIABILITY, CAN RECENTLY QUEUED GENERATION**  
8 **PROJECTS REPLACE THE PLANTS?**

9 A. No. Most projects in the PJM queue never break ground. For example, as of December  
10 2014, new projects that have entered the Feasibility Study phase had only a 14.6%  
11 historical probability of going into service.<sup>5</sup> It is common for developers to withdraw a  
12 generation project from the PJM queue. Further, potential natural gas generation would  
13 lack the important qualities of baseload nuclear and coal plants with significant on-site  
14 fuel supply to withstand extreme weather events and other interruptions of just-in-time  
15 fuel supply.

16 **Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU REFERENCE THE TRANSMISSION**  
17 **IMPACT STUDY'S \$436.5 MILLION COST ESTIMATE AS CONSERVATIVE?**

18 A. In an effort to model a more “best case scenario” (i.e. lower costs to customers) the  
19 transmission impact study assumed that overloaded lines could be merely re-conducted.

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<sup>2</sup> Generation Deactivation Summary Sheet, available at <http://www.pjm.com/planning/generation-deactivation/gd-summaries.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> Future Deactivation Requests Summary Sheet, available at <http://www.pjm.com/planning/generation-deactivation/gd-summaries.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> Ohio State Profile and Energy Estimates, available at <http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=OH>.

<sup>5</sup> 2014 PJM Interconnection Queue Statistics Update, available at <http://pjm.com/~media/committees-groups/committees/pc/20150107/20150107-item-07-queue-statistics-20150107.ashx> (January 7, 2015).

1 **Q. COULD SOME OF THE OVERLOADED FACILITIES REQUIRE REBUILDING**  
2 **INSTEAD?**

3 A. Yes. It is very likely that certain lines would need to be rebuilt because of the larger  
4 conductor being installed or because of the age or condition of the existing facilities.  
5 Rebuilding a line would necessarily significantly increase the cost of that transmission  
6 upgrade.

7 **Q. IF IN A BEST CASE SCENARIO, THE TRANSMISSION IMPACT STUDY**  
8 **YIELDS A LOW END COST OF \$436.5 MILLION, THEN WHAT IS THE**  
9 **HIGHER END AMOUNT?**

10 A. At the other end of the spectrum, if we assume all the transmission upgrades consist of  
11 rebuilds instead of re-conductoring, the estimated cost of the upgrades increases to nearly  
12 \$1.1 billion. Assuming it is not necessary to build any more expensive new facilities  
13 (e.g., new lines, new substations), the actual costs of transmission upgrades necessitated  
14 by the retirement of Sammis and Davis-Besse would fall within this range of between  
15 \$436.5 million and \$1.1 billion.

16 **Q. WOULD RETIREMENT OF THE PLANTS CREATE OTHER COSTS IN**  
17 **ADDITION TO THE COSTS OF TRANSMISSION UPGRADES?**

18 A. Yes. When the transmission facilities are being upgraded, they will need to be removed  
19 from service for extended periods of time to perform the necessary re-conductoring  
20 and/or rebuilding upgrades. Some or all of these outages will result in transmission  
21 congestion (constraints) on the transmission system. PJM will dispatch one or more of  
22 the generating units out of economic merit in order to keep transmission flows within  
23 limits and this results in increased Transmission Congestion Costs.



1 **Q. WOULD REMOVING TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FROM SERVICE TO**  
2 **PERFORM THE NECESSARY UPGRADES IMPACT RELIABILITY?**

3 A. Yes. Because of the large number of facilities needing to be upgraded, many of these  
4 required extended outages will need to occur simultaneously in order for the upgrades to  
5 be completed in an acceptable timeframe. These upgrade outages will also overlap with  
6 other construction/maintenance outages on the system, causing even greater stress on the  
7 transmission system. In addition, these outages put the system at a greater risk for the  
8 impact of additional unplanned forced outages.

9 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER CONSTRUCTION SCENARIOS THAT WOULD BE**  
10 **CONSIDERED?**

11 A. Yes. As I mentioned, in addition to just re-conductoring or rebuilding the overloaded  
12 facilities, transmission planning also studies if other new facilities would provide better  
13 alternatives for solving the identified reliability issues. The ultimate solution will not be  
14 the best-case, least cost scenario consisting entirely of re-conductors. As noted above, a  
15 solution consisting entirely of re-conductors or rebuilt facilities would require a large  
16 number of facilities to be out of service at one time, creating potential reliability risks and  
17 congestion costs. Therefore, PJM and transmission owners would review new facility  
18 options. While new construction projects were being performed, there would be less  
19 stress and constraints on the transmission system. PJM and transmission owners will  
20 likely develop a solution that consists of a combination of new facilities and re-  
21 conductoring/rebuilding of existing facilities. This was the case with the transmission  
22 projects necessitated by the retirements of approximately 2,400 MW of coal-fired power  
23 plants in Ohio between 2012 and 2015. The majority of those projects were new  
24 construction projects (e.g., new lines, new transformers, new substations, and new

capacitors). The inclusion of such new facilities will move the cost of the reliability solution away from the lower end of the cost spectrum and toward the higher end.

**Q. HOW ARE THE COSTS OF THESE TRANSMISSION UPGRADES ALLOCATED TO CUSTOMERS?**

A. Schedule 12 of the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff governs allocation of the costs of reliability-based transmission enhancements. It is difficult to predict how the costs of projects necessitated by the retirements of Sammis and Davis-Besse would be allocated among customers. This is because the ultimate combination of new facilities and re-conducted or rebuilt existing facilities that will be determined by PJM and transmission owners is unknown. What we do know, however, is that customers of the Companies, as well as other Ohio customers, will bear some of the costs. For example, for the transmission projects necessitated by the retirements of approximately 2,400 MW of coal-fired power plants in Ohio between 2012 and 2015, approximately 89% of the estimated \$1 billion in costs were allocated to Ohio, and customers of the Companies were responsible for approximately 82% of the costs.

**Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

A. Yes. I reserve the right to supplement my testimony.

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